

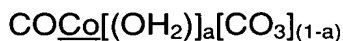
### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The present listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-15. (Cancelled)

Claim 16. (Currently amended) A process for preparing an agglomerated cobalt(II) hydroxide, comprising reacting, in suspension,

- (i) agglomerated cobalt(II) carbonate,  
with
  - (ii) at least one component selected from the group consisting of  
aqueous alkaline liquors, ammonia and mixtures thereof,
- wherein the agglomerated cobalt(II) carbonate is formed by agglomerating fine primary particles represented by the following formula,



in which  $0.1 \leq a \leq 0.9$ , and

the agglomerated cobalt(II) carbonate has a spheroidal secondary structure and an average agglomerate diameter of 3  $\mu\text{m}$  to 50  $\mu\text{m}$  further wherein said agglomerated cobalt(II) hydroxide has a spheroidal secondary structure that is substantially the same as the secondary spheroidal structure of said agglomerated cobalt(II) carbonate, and has an average agglomerate diameter of 3  $\mu\text{m}$  to 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 17. (Cancelled)

Claim 18. (Cancelled)

Claim 19. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 16, wherein the average agglomerate diameter of said agglomerated cobalt(II) carbonate is 5  $\mu\text{m}$  to 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , and the average agglomerate diameter of said agglomerated cobalt(II) hydroxide is 5  $\mu\text{m}$  to 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 20. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 16, wherein the cobalt(II) hydroxide has a tap density of  $\geq 1\text{g/cm}^3$ .

Claim 21. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 16, further comprising calcinating the agglomerated cobalt(II) hydroxide thereby forming pure-phase cobalt(II) oxide.

Claims 22 - 29. (Cancelled)

Claim 30. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 16 wherein said component is ammonia.

Claim 31. (Previously presented) A process for preparing an agglomerated cobalt(II) hydroxide, comprising reacting cobalt(II) carbonate agglomerates, in suspension, with ammonia.

Claim 32. (New) Cobalt (II) hydroxide made from the process of Claim 16, wherein said cobalt (II) hydroxide consists of spheroidally agglomerated, polygonal, lamellar primary particles which have average diameters of  $0.3\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  to  $1.5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  and diameter to thickness ratios between 3 and 15.

Claim 33. (New) The cobalt (II) hydroxide of Claim 32 wherein the spheroidal agglomerates have an average diameter of  $3 - 50\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 34. (New) The cobalt (II) hydroxide of Claim 32, wherein the spheroidal agglomerates have an average diameter of  $5 - 20\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 35. (New) The cobalt (II) hydroxide of Claim 32, having a tap density of  $\geq 1\text{ gm/cm}^3$ .

Claim 36. (New) Spheroidal, free-flowing cobalt (II) oxide or higher oxides having the cobalt (II) hydroxide of Claim 32.